GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4266
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
ECONOMIC DISPARITY AMONG STATES
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Suraj

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge economic disparity among people of various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this disparity is the result of lack of overall development of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any special Development Scheme in the Eleventh Plan for the overall development of the backward States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the names of those States where the proposed Scheme is being implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to(c): It is a fact that there is inter-State and intra-State economic disparity in the country. Economic disparities result from varying factors such as differences in resource endowment, geographical and historical characteristics and availability of infrastructure.

(d): The Government launched the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07 in order to address the problem of regional imbalance in the country. This scheme will continue during the Eleventh Plan.

(e): The BRGF has two components. The first component, namely, the Districts Component covers 250 districts of 27 States (except Goa) and aims to fill critical gaps in infrastructure with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The second component comprises of Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput(KBK) districts of Orissa. The Special Plan for Bihar has been formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development. The Special Plan for the KBK districts is aimed to bring about overall development of these districts by filling critical gaps in various sectors. An allocation of Rs.5800 crore was made for the programme as a whole for 2007-08 and the same allocation has been made for 2008-09.